



Envision Arlington Diversity Task Group (DTG)

Date: January 11, 2024

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm EDT

Location: Remote Participation, via Zoom

Attendees: Rebecca Gruber, Jane Flores, Michèle Oshima, Lynette Culverhouse, Katell Guellec, Susan Lees, Lenard Diggins, Mona Mandal, Sarah MacKinnon, Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Louise Popkin

Facilitator: Jane Flores

Minutes: Michèle Oshima

Minutes

- **Welcome**
- **Land Acknowledgement**
- **Approve the Previous Minutes:** December 2023 was approved with amendments. Rebecca, Mona, Katell, and Sarah abstained. November 2023 minutes, October 2023 minutes, September 2023 minutes were approved. ***Going forth, the minute-taker will send the draft minutes to the DTG email address and Rebecca will send it to the folks who attended the meeting for corrections/edits.***
- **Building coalition with other groups - continued discussion**
 - Continuing discussion from this past fall.
 - One way of building bridges has been to invite a speaker. Gives them a voice in a group that is interested in DEI issues.
 - From our last meeting, Stephanie wasn't able to be as involved in MBTA Communities zoning, and would value having a presenter on the plan that was agreed upon for Arlington. The plan was to reach out to Elizabeth and Rebecca for February or March presenter(s). Rebecca will reach out to Stephanie to find out what she is looking for. Rebecca and Lenard gave a brief update on MBTA Communities zoning. An Affordable Housing Overlay might be on the April warrant. If it does, an author of the article could be the presenter in March. Rebecca will invite a presenter for March.

- Mothers Out Front in Arlington, a group of mothers, grandmothers, caregivers working on a sustainable climate for children and grandchildren; there are 20 chapters in MA. The Arlington Chapter has been around for 9 years – Susan Lees is open to building a coalition with DTG.
- Civic Engagement Group could be a good group with which to build coalition. Lynette Culverhouse is part of that group, which is a subset of Envision Arlington.
- Arlington elections are coming up and there are several potential openings for Town Meeting members. This is a great way to get policies passed. If anyone is interested, contact Lynette Culverhouse in 11, Rebecca and Elizabeth in Precinct 10, Sarah in Precinct 20, Mona in Precinct 9, and Lenard in Precinct 3, who are all Town Meeting members.
- Possible groups -- for many of these, we could share each other's information to publicize events and activities:
 - Some groups that have been less represented at our meetings, such as tenant's groups, people of color. DTG is a "word of mouth" place-- you come, if you connect, you stay. If you don't connect, you don't stay. This is the nature of volunteer spaces.
 - Place to support Palestine--is it safe? Come with grace, be kind to each other.
 - Place for openness to learn and grow.
 - Similar groups in other towns.
 - Keep an eye out for the warrant. Composed of articles that reflect the interests which matter to the Town. Will be released online mid-February.
 - *A Land Twice Promised: An Israeli Woman's Quest for Peace* by Noa Baum comes highly recommended by Katell Guellec.
 - Lynette, can we have the conversation sharing the perspectives we come from? Lynette is writing a book about this need for transformation in our country.
- Updates on Town events, news, etc.
 - MLK event at Arlington Eats for kids 4-8 years old from 11-12:30. https://www.bostonjcc.org/calendar/pj-library-kindness-kids-at-arlington-eats/?fbclid=IwAR06QmVbuFXTjEi_iGaCaswsOW1WPJjvaz8iTwXyI7bHqUNL02sXbw9Ya-0
 - Arlington 250, recognizing the 250th anniversary, has a subgroup for DEI, and is looking for more folks. Note that there is a rep from the Human Rights Commission.
 - The Social Justice Book Club at Robbins Library for January 30, 2024 (7:00pm-8:00pm) book selection: *The people's hospital: hope and peril in American medicine* by Ricardo Nulia

- January 25th Lunar Event (4-6pm). Contact Theresa Marzilli if you want to help/set up at 2pm, clean up until 7pm. Laurie and Rebecca have added this link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1IKrT6RnAUTjdMZpVpgoqU2HVAu39_0V51Unk5Y7Bd0s/viewform?edit_requested=true
 - The Town warrant is open. If you want to learn how to write a new one, it is due the end of January. Elizabeth can help anyone who wants to learn how to create one to understand the process.
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- Check-Ins, feeling safe to share in this space, and what it means to open up and feel vulnerable. Leaving space/Creating a space for people to share. Agreeing to ground rules at the beginning? Perhaps shouldn't happen in our meetings. Intentional container-building could be a goal for DTG. Conversation about how to build a container? Trust? Does DTG see its role to make statements, only simple ones?
 - Could this conversation be continued outside of the DTG meetings?
 - What governance do we need for what is posted on the FaceBook page, and forwarded on to the DTG list.
 - Could distributed participatory democracy be a discussion for DTG going forth, top of the agenda item. No Rebecca, no Lynette in February. Going forward will create the next month's meeting agenda together at the end of the meeting. Leave 10 minutes at the end to create the agenda for the next meeting. Michele will create the agenda for February.

"If you decide the world needs to change, just start.

Many will show up and help to make the ordinary extraordinary."